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~~Report~~

Report of Lawrence & Christine re Organisation in London.

Lancashire and Cheshire

Women Textile and Other Workers' Representation Committee.

AL/2704

Referred to next Comm.

read the Comm. Jan. 16 '07

Head Office: MANCHESTER & SALFORD WOMEN'S TRADE & LABOUR COUNCIL OFFICE,  
5 JOHN DALTON STREET,  
MANCHESTER.

Nov 19 '06

My dear Palliser

I enclose you a report of organizing in London. There is a great deal that can be done + should be done. But to do it, it will be necessary for us to keep a trade union member of our Com<sup>tee</sup> in London for two or three months. What do you feel your Com<sup>tee</sup> could do towards the expense of this work? I wish I could come on Wednesday + discuss it for I am sure it is very important, but I can't get off. Will you let me know what they think.

There were a large number of these Trade  
Union men & women at the Trafalgar Square  
meeting. I wonder if you people know  
that the Pankhursts pay fares to bring  
women whenever they have a demonstration  
I know this for I was a member of  
their Com<sup>tee</sup> for the May Demonstration.  
We did not pay one penny this time, &  
I think it is most striking that many  
of them came long distances to show  
their interest in the subject.

I return 4 badges. I will write to all our people  
& see if we have more. Some of your own  
people who held flags or had literature took  
badges from my parcel. Let me know what you  
decide about elections too, will you. When are we to  
consult!

Yours in haste  
E. S. Roper.

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A2/2704

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

## Women Textile and other Workers Representation Committee.

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special Trade Union meeting  
A meeting was arranged in ~~co-operation with~~  
by the Cigar Makers Committee to open the  
Campaign among the Cigar makers. ~~The Cigar~~  
The President of the Society took the chair. W. Cooper  
L.C.C. The General Secretary proposed the resolution. There  
was a large audience composed entirely of Cigar Makers  
men & women, one very rarely sees a meeting so enthusiastic  
& unanimous. A good deal of literature was given away  
& the cigar makers volunteered to take ~~the~~ bills for  
the Trafalgar Square meeting & literature. This had a  
very good effect as members of cigar makers etc came  
from Whitechapel to the Trafalgar Square <sup>cigar makers</sup> meeting.  
The speakers were the officials of the Society, Miss Roper  
& Miss Jane North, at the special request of the Committee.  
Another workers meeting was attended in Whitechapel  
by Miss Reddish & Mr. Dickenson. ~~As~~  
on this meeting others were present beside the Cigar Makers.  
Bills & literature were given out. Resolution passed

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with enthusiasm. Since then Miss Reddish has visited the Committee & is trying to arrange the best lines for organizing a <sup>special</sup> committee to carry on the work.

Difficulties have arisen at Publico. The Trade Union Secretary had helped us in many ways, even giving up his meeting to us allowing us to address his audience on one occasion. But for the last fortnight we were in London he turned entirely against the subject. Special Trade Union meetings were being held in consequence of the proposed reduction of wages in the Government <sup>factory</sup>. The matter was being discussed at a large meeting during the short dinner hour. Miss Parkhurst & Miss Billington obtained permission to join the discussion pledging themselves to speak only of the present difficulty. Mr. Butler complained bitterly that they then broke their word & captured the meeting talking of nothing but "the women in prison," & next day announced it as a "Suffragette meeting on Publico Pri," at a moment when newspaper advertisement was absolutely necessary to the Trade Union. The consequence was

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That the Union absolutely refused to touch the subject at first - ~~but when~~ and until two days before the Infalgar Sq. meeting nothing could be done although constant visits were paid & explanations made. However when the officials realised that ours was ~~not~~ Trade Union Council & had no connection with the incident so much resented by the Union, they withdrew their opposition & advertised inside the Government factories the Infalgar Sq. meeting. A great deal of canvassing & advertising was ~~by~~ done by us at the Government Factory Gates, & the work ~~is~~ will be carried on now, only unfortunately time was lost & extra expense made necessary. Mrs. Cooper has unfortunately been detained a week in Liverpool working for the Suffrage Society. but we hope she will soon be in London carrying out the work with the Co-operation of these Committees. The secretaries hope to return shortly but are detained in Manchester for the moment

Esther Roper.  
Eva for Branch

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To fares. + hotel expenses.  
also fee to Mrs Reddish  
in connection with organizing  
work in London

£ 22 - 7 - 4 .